(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a detailed Contract Labour Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what steps are being taken to project the labour in this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 have been under the consideration of the Government as part of the follow up action on the announcement made in this regard by the Finance Minister while presenting the Budget in February, 2001.

Changes in EPF Act

554. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering some changes in the Employees Provident Fund Act to help the employees; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed changes and by when these are likely to be brought about?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Some changes in the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are contemplated, so as to widen the scope and streamline the implementation of the provisions of the Act. No time frame for implementing the changes can be given at this stage.

Irregularities in EPFO

555. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial irregularities amounting to several crores of rupees in acquisition of land and construction of office building/staff quarters in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation have come to Government's notice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Labour Reforms

556. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Statesman' dated the 12th October, 2001 under the caption "Sharad Jolt to labour reforms";

(b) if so, the objections raised regarding the proposed labour reforms;

(c) the report of the Committee of Secretaries in the matter; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken to amend the relevant Acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Review/updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process in order to make them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. Taking into consideration the emerging global economic situation and particularly after the introduction of new economic policy in 1991 by the Government of India, the need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour legislations so as to bring them in tune with the market oriented economy giving the domestic industry a level playing field to face the global competition. The Government have also set up the Second National Commission on Labour on 15.10.1999. The Commission would *inter-alia* take into account the emerging economic environment involving rapid technological changes, globalisation of economy, liberalization of trade and industry, emphasis on international competitiveness and also the need for bringing the existing laws in tune with the future labour market needs and demands. The report of the Commission is expected by 15.02.2002.

Selection of tribal candidates for IAS/IPS/IFS

557. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: